

ALL AT SEA SOUTH FLORIDA



Inside: NASCAR on Water

LOBSTER Season

Flying Scots on **BISCAYNE BAY**

SOUTH FLORIDA NEWS



PHOTO CREDIT: TERRY BORAM

ANCHORING IN FLORIDA OKAY—FOR NOW

BY ANN EICHENMULLER

Long-term cruisers and liveaboards received a reprieve of sorts when the Florida legislature ended its 2015 session without taking a vote on SB 1548. The bill restricting the anchorage of boats within 200 feet of developed property, has drawn sharp opposition from the boating community, which fears that enforcement would effectively close dozens of protected creeks along the ICW. Waterfront property owners contend that many of these vessels are poorly maintained eyesores remaining anchored in the same place for months or even years. HB 7123, sponsored by Representative Holly Raschein, is viewed by many boaters as a more commonsense approach to the problem because it specifically targets derelict vessels.

However, this bill does not address another root cause of the dispute—the perceived lack of contribution to the community's tax base by the full-time boating community. Property taxes are a crucial source of income for counties, and homeowners argue that liveaboards and snowbirds utilize community services without helping to support them. Cruisers counter that the money they spend in Florida provides a significant boost to local economies.

The dispute is tabled until the legislature meets again March, but boaters up and down the East Coast are waiting to see if the dream of dropping the hook in the clear Florida waters will become a thing of the past.

MARINE TRADE GROUP PRAISES TAX-CUT PACKAGE

FORT LAUDERDALE -- The Marine Industries Association of South Florida is pleased to report that the Florida Legislature and Governor Rick Scott are giving boaters reason to have repairs done in the state with the new tax cut package passed today.

Signed into law by Governor Scott, the \$60,000 tax cap eliminates sales taxes on boat repairs costing more than \$1 million, starting July 1, 2015. With marine-related competition for the repair and refitting of vessels now heating up in the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe, MIA SF has taken an active role to ensure South Florida remains 'the global marine hub.' "South Florida is the international marine hub to the world, employing 136,000 people in the marine industry," said Phil Purcell, executive director of MIA SF.

"The industry's skilled craftsmen and its proximity to the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe have resulted in increased demand for repairs to vessels of all sizes. We will now be able to compete with states along the eastern seaboard and international yards," Purcell said. "This tax cap will enable us to leverage this opportunity for additional jobs and economic growth."

MIA SF, created in 1961 to focus on the sound growth of the marine industry in the region, was assisted by advocates including Floridian Partners, Sen. Jack Latvala and Sen. Joseph

Abruzzo, to spread the word on the importance of protecting the current positive marine environment in the state. Today, the association continues to promote and protect the \$11.5 billion industry in South Florida.

For more information call 954-524-2733 or visit www.miasf.org

PURSUIT BOATS ANNOUNCES PRODUCT AND DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

FT. PIERCE -- Pursuit Boats announced that Mark Taiclet joined the Pursuit Boats sales team as a Product and Distribution Manager. In this new role, Mark will focus on growing and improving the quality of the Pursuit Boats distribution network as well as ensuring Pursuit Boats are competitive within the marketplace and outfitted with current features and content.

"Pursuit Boats and the Pursuit dealer network are pleased to welcome Mark to the team" said George Hetzel, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, S2 Yachts. "He brings a wealth of training and sales knowledge to this newly created position and we look forward to him working with our dealer network and business development managers."

Mark has vast experience in the marine industry, with the majority of time spent in various positions at Sea Ray Boats in the areas of new product development, product sales training, and national/regional sales. He comes to Pursuit Boats from Seakeeper, the premium manufacturer of gyro stabilizers. Mark will be based at Pursuit Boats in Ft. Pierce, Fla.



ALL AT SEA SOUTH FLORIDA

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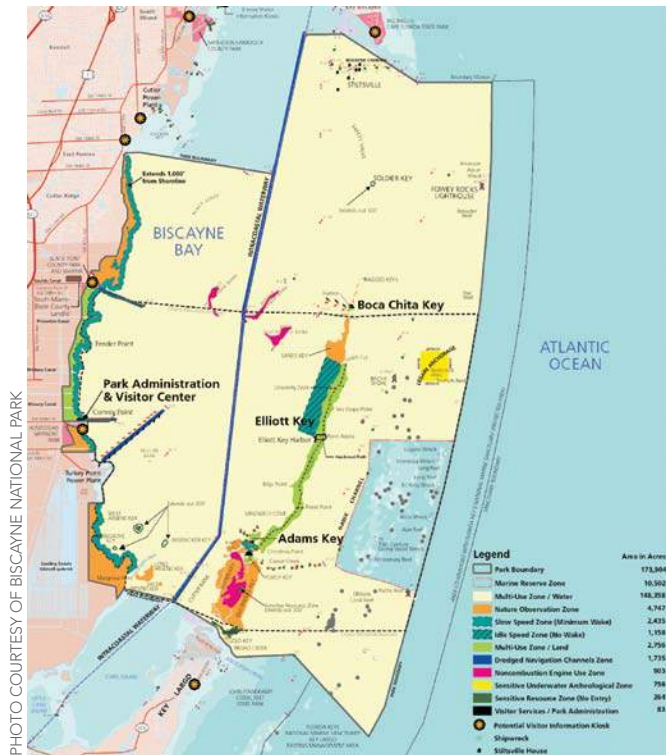


NEW LIFE FOR DELRAY BEACH YACHT CLUB

BY ANN EICHENMULLER

Boaters transiting the ICW through Delray Beach or seeking a permanent home in Florida's "Village by the Sea," can look forward to upgraded accommodations at the Seagate Yacht Club as early as this fall. The 44-slip marina, formerly known as the Yacht Club at Delray Beach, has long been a popular stopover because of its proximity to shopping and restaurants as well as its ability to accommodate vessels up to 120 feet. Despite its prime location, the marina suffered from the economic downturn in recent years, undergoing foreclosure in 2010 and again in 2013.

The 3.25 acre site just south of the Atlantic Avenue bridge was purchased in December 2013, as a joint venture by Seaside Builders and the Seagate Hospitality Group, and has since risen like the proverbial phoenix. The redesign of the property revolves around the addition of ten luxury waterfront townhomes as well as a complete renovation of marina facilities. Improvements include a new swimming pool, sundeck, lounge area, ship's store, showers, laundry, and dockmaster's office. If you can't wait, the Seagate Yacht Club is currently open to the public, but facilities are limited. According to marina manager Robin Braig, all of the new amenities should be available by November 2015, when construction is slated to be complete.



FINAL BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN RELEASED

HOMESTEAD – Biscayne National Park released its final General Management Plan designed to restore the park's coral reef ecosystem and improve visitor experiences.

"Our primary goal is a natural, healthy marine ecosystem for visitors to explore, learn about, and enjoy" said Superintendent Brian Carlstrom. "This plan will guide us and help ensure that the park's vital and extraordinary coral reefs, mangrove forests, extensive tracts of Biscayne Bay and the Florida Keys, and 10,000 years of human history will be protected for future generations."

Increasing pressure from recreational use, fishing, and development have taken a toll on Biscayne National Park over the last thirty years, so a no-fishing marine reserve zone will be the primary tool used to improve the declining reef's condition. Included in the plan are the creation of a "no-fishing" marine reserve zone east of Elliott Key, the expansion of no-motor zones around Featherbed Banks and parts of Caesar Creek, and the extension of no-wake and idle speed zones near Elliott Key and along the western shoreline.

The plan will be gradually implemented depending on available funding and staffing. Implementation of the marine reserve zone will occur after a special park regulation is issued.

The regulation will define the various aspects and requirements of visitor access within the zone. www.nps.gov/bisc

ALL ABOARD FLORIDA UPDATE

U.S. District Court Judge Christopher Cooper denied Indian River and Martin counties' attempt to temporarily block issuance of \$1.75 billion of tax-exempt bonds for All Aboard Florida. County officials said they are considering their next step including an appeal. "We're still analyzing," Indian River County Attorney Dylan Reingold said about a possible appeal. "Obviously the case isn't done. This is just — as the judge said — the ruling at this stage of the case."

Judge Cooper, in the 21-page filing, said the counties "stumbled" in their attempt to prove that blocking the bonds would stop All Aboard Florida and help prevent grievous and permanent harm, the legal standard needed for a temporary injunction.

The passenger rail project needs one more approval — from the Florida Development Finance Corp., the agency that would issue the private activity bonds. Though a hearing has been postponed several times, All Aboard Florida said it planned to start selling the bonds June 22.

St. Lucie, Indian River and Martin Counties have sent documents to the finance corporation reserving their rights to protest any future All Aboard Florida-related bond decisions made by the finance corporation board. The "point of entry" documents lay the groundwork for the counties to file formal complaints with the state.

Meanwhile in West Palm, Fort Lauderdale and Miami, drivers should expect road closures as crews begin work on installing railroad signals and gates.





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WEDNESDAY NIGHT RACING ON BISCAYNE BAY

SAILING STORY AND PHOTOS BY TERRY BORAM



The Flying Scot fleet has been sailing the waters of Biscayne Bay for over 20 years. Many of the boats come out of the Coconut Grove Sailing Club which now keeps 15 Scots.

Flying Scot Fleet Captain Bud Price said, "We have worked hard to build the fleet, sponsoring Wednesday night races and inviting all people to come and experience the boat." Bud also conducts a Racing 101 seminar to bring even more people to the fleet. The CGSC is a major supporter of this

event, supplying boats and captains to take people out to experience a race. With an average of 11 boats on the starting line of BBYRA races, Price's extra effort is paying off.

Members and non-members alike are welcomed to join in on the fun every Wednesday night for a casual race. All who show up will be placed on a boat. The 101 series is also open to anyone wanting to experience this fun, family boat.

For more information go to www.cgsc.org.





SAILING EVENTS:

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

AUGUST 15

You Gotta Regatta

Sailing Regatta

www.lyc.org/web/guest/regattas

keylargoanythingthatfloatsrace.com/

305-451-4502

MIAMI, FL

AUGUST 8 – 9

Single Handed and Double Handed Race

Sailing Regatta

www.cgsc.org

KEY LARGO, FL

AUGUST 15

Anything that Floats Race Carnival



DOLPHIN TOURNAMENT

FISHING BY TERRY BORAM

COURTESY OF BIG PINE & LOWER KEYS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Winning Angler Walter Harrell

The Big Pine & Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce 22nd Annual Dolphin Tournament, held at the Sugarloaf KOA June 5 - 7, had 46 boats participating.

The winning boat was Tampa-based *Mama Money* with angler Walter Harrell taking the top prize, with a 44.20-pound dolphin. The tournament's top female angler was Tanya Toro of Miami Springs, who caught a 24.6-pound dolphin while fishing on the boat *Half Time* with Captain Spencer Deno. In the Junior Division, Randy Culmer of Marathon took first place fishing on *Silent Hunter*. The 15-year-old caught a 21.1-pound dolphin.

The tournament was supported not only by the Chamber and their sponsors, but also by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council's Fishing Umbrella, which provided funding



First Place Youth Randy Culmer

COURTESY OF BIG PINE & LOWER KEYS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Top Lady Wnner Tanya Toro

for advertising that brings many anglers to the lower keys area to enjoy genuine hospitality.

3RD ANNUAL LADIES DOLPHIN TOURNAMENT OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

A windy and rainy day did not deter 72 lady anglers fishing aboard 29 boats June 13 in the 3rd Annual Ladies Dolphin Tournament of the Florida Keys. When the scales closed at

FISHING EVENTS:

ISLAMORADA, FL

AUGUST 29
7th Annual Spartan Fishing Tournament
www.paceanglersclub.com/Pace_Anglers_Club/Tournament.html

KEY LARGO, FL

AUGUST 6 - 7
Hooked on Kids Charity Fishing Tournament
www.sheridanhouse.org/web/events/fishing-tournament/
954-983-4360

KEY WEST, FL

SEPTEMBER 11 - 13
S.L.A.M.
(Southernmost Light Tackle Anglers Masters)
www.redbone.org/tourn_sched.html
(305) 664-2002

NORTH PALM BEACH, FL

AUGUST 15
Anchorage Aweigh

Fishing Tourney
www.village-npb.org/
561-841-3386

POMPANO BEACH, FL

AUGUST 6 - 9
Pompano Beach Saltwater Showdown
www.bluewatermovements.com/saltwater_showdown/info@bluewatermovements.com

STUART, FL

AUGUST 8 - 9
36th Annual Junior Angler Tournament
www.stuartsailfishclub.com/tournament_junior.php
(772) 286-9373

AUGUST 14 - 15
37th Annual Junior Angler Fishing Tournament
www.stuartsailfishclub.com/tournaments.php

WEST PALM BEACH, FL

AUGUST 29
Anglers For The Cure
www.anglersforthecure.com/

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COURTESY OF LADIES DOLPHIN TOURNAMENT

Grand Champion Team
Hey Papa with tournament
directors Denny Tarbell
and Dianne Harbaugh



COURTESY OF LADIES DOLPHIN TOURNAMENT

First place
Junior Angler
Skylynn Lindback



COURTESY OF LADIES DOLPHIN TOURNAMENT

Second place winners Denise Cone, Michelle Bennett and Lindsey Diehl

5 p.m. Saturday, Captain Justin Matson fishing out of Bud N' Mary's Marina on *Hey Papa* edged out second place by just one tenth of a pound. Anglers Holly Given, Diana Harris, Jessica and Amber Spaulding, from Islamorada, would weigh three fish totaling 36.9 pounds. First place tiaras and trophies, sponsored by Riva Motorsports were awarded to the ladies along with a gift bag full of valuable prizes and a check for \$3,000. Captain Matson received a Guy Harvey print sponsored by Yamaha Outboards and Caribe Boat Sales. Mate Drew Rohnhouse received a new Redbone fishing rod.

Second place, sponsored by Upper Keys Marine Construction, went to Denise Cone, Michelle Bennett and Lindsey Diehl from

Tavernier, fishing aboard *Contagious* with Captain Brian Cone. The team weighed in a 10.1, 11.0 and 15.7 for a total of 36.8 pounds. The team took home a gift bag full of items donated by local businesses, trophies, plus a check for \$1,500.

Although the anglers were a little beat up from the heavy seas, everyone enjoyed the awards banquet with the beautiful view of the sunset out the big bay windows at the Florida Keys Elks Lodge at Mile Marker 92.5 in Tavernier. The awards ceremony was fit for the Queens of the fishing world. "It was great to be able to fill our top 10 winner's gift bags with such wonderful items from businesses throughout the Upper Keys" stated tournament director Dianne Harbaugh.

ULTIMATE SUMMER DESTINATIONS

IGY
MARINAS

CABO
SAN LUCAS,
MEXICO

MONTAUK, NY
NEW YORK
HARBOR

FORT LAUDERDALE

BIMINI, BAHAMAS

TURKS & CAICOS

ST. THOMAS

ST. MAARTEN

ST. LUCIA

BOCAS
DEL TORO,
PANAMA

SANTA MARTA,
COLOMBIA

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AGENCY

REGULAR LOBSTER SEASON

FISHING STORY AND PHOTO BY GLENN HAYES



Summer in the Florida Keys can be many things to many people, but Lobster Season draws a plethora of visitors to the chain of islands with beautiful reefs loaded with the delectable creatures. Catching a limit of Florida Spiny lobster is not a difficult task and needs very little equipment. With a few simple tools and a way to get on the water, a delicious lobster dinner is not only possible but also likely.

The Keys fill to capacity during the two-day mini-lobster season that always falls on the last Wednesday and Thursday of July. While a great many lobsters are taken on these days, the regular season running from August 6 to March 31 allows for ample chances of great catches.

Needing just a mask, snorkel, fins and gloves as well as a Florida recreational saltwater fishing license with a lobster stamp (available at most fishing tackle shops and tax collectors offices), divers can work shallow reefs and structures looking for the crustaceans under rock, coral and any object that may hide lobster. Some prefer using a tickle stick and net, coaxing the lobster with a fiberglass or aluminum stick into a waiting net (a small to medium short-handled landing type net works best). Still others use a snare type device that you ease over the tail of the lobster. It wraps around the lobster's center, allowing harmless removal for

measurement. Every diver should have his or her own lobster gauge that makes measuring every lobster simple and allows for instant release should it be undersized.

Florida regulations state that the carapace must be greater than 3 inches and must be measured in the water. It is also important to note that the lobster must be kept in a whole state while on board, with no egg-bearing females allowed. A mesh net bag is a good way to collect your catch, and the variety with the hinged wire ring opening makes placing lobsters in the bag easier. Other than a dive flag or flags for the boat and divers in the water, all other equipment could be considered optional.

A tow-rope or similar device is handy for pulling a diver in order to cover more ground looking for potential spots. Also good for location scouting is a bucket with a plexiglass bottom allowing the viewing of the bottom without having to jump in. Sting relief remedies are also a good idea to have aboard should you run across some jellyfish or fire coral.

With just this basic equipment and knowledge of the laws and restricted areas (<http://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/lobster/>) you can be well on your way to a well-earned lobster dinner.

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NASCAR ON WATER

FEATURE STORY AND PHOTOS BY TERRY BORAM



The Miss GEICO Offshore Race Team has been amazing race fans for ten years, winning over one hundred races and eight World Championships. I was invited to their headquarters in Riviera Beach, Florida to learn more about the team as they prepared for the first test session of the season. Throughout the day, Managing Member and Partner Scott Colton's constant reference to NASCAR was not lost on this race fan. Speed, wins, and championships are always the goal leading into any season. But as in NASCAR, the Race Team's dedication to their teammates, their loyal fans and the communities they visit makes all the hard work worth it.

The team was founded by John Haggin, who caught the offshore racing bug at the age of six. In 2004 Haggin formed his own team, AMF Racing (America Moving Forward), with a mission to integrate turbine engines into offshore racing. The 42-foot Miss GEICO Platinum Catamaran made its debut in



2005 with throttleman Scott Begovich and driver Marc Granet. It didn't take long for them to gel as a team. In 2006 the team won their first of five back to back World Championships.

Colton explained the pair of Begovich and Granet couldn't be more opposite. "Scotty is a former football player who fills up the cockpit with his size yet has a very laid back personality. Marc on the other hand is very Type A and spindly," Colton joked. With top speeds nearing 200 m.p.h., Begovich's calm demeanor is certainly an advantage when he's operating the throttles. The throttleman controls the boat's speed and trim on the water while the driver keeps the boat on course. Con-

ditions change dramatically throughout the race with wind, waves, and other competitor all playing a role.

Safety is the team's top concern. Their safety boat is always close by with frogman David DiPrellio standing by to retrieve the drivers. The team has never flipped the boat, however during a practice run in 2012, the boat did suffer a catastrophic fire after a \$10 part failed. Fortunately safety crews were immediately on the scene and no one was injured.

As in NASCAR the crew chief of the team is truly the brains of the operation. Gary Stray joined the team in 2009, after seven years with the Victory Team in Dubai then running his own rigging company in the United States. I watched Gary throughout the day seemingly unfazed by any delay or mechanical problem presented. DiPrellio could not stop singing Gary's praises throughout the test session saying, "Gary has more common sense than 99 percent of the world." Others simply say Gary is a genius. I was most impressed by the calmness of the entire team as they worked through problems. This teamwork is what wins championships.

After Haggin retired in 2011, Colton, Begovich, Granet, Stray and Gary Goodell became equal partners of AMF Riviera Beach, LLC. Colton said their goal is simple, "To win as many world titles as possible." With each partner bringing his own strength to the table this goal has allowed them to grow the Miss GEICO brand even further.

The 2015 season features 12 races with just over half in Florida.

Race weekends are hectic between practice sessions and races. But no matter how busy they are, the team always makes time for its fans. Colton emphatically states, "As long as you have a GEICO on your shirts you need to go the extra mile for the fans. We are one of the few teams which have an open pit. It's important that our fans feel included in the weekend."

The team also participates in local charity events and visits schools and hospitals. During the Atlantic City Veterans Off-shore Grand Prix Father's Day weekend, the team gave rides to veterans injured in service as part of the Wounded Warriors Project. Colton says "We consider it a privilege to race the world's fastest catamaran on behalf of GEICO, and an honor to support members of the military and their families who come out to see us race on Father's Day."

Taking their service to the community one step further, in 2007 the team established United We Race, a 501 (c)(3) charitable foundation for the sole purpose of raising funds for veterans and veterans' programs. Today, 100 percent of all race prize earnings and merchandise sales benefit these types of organizations. Over the years Miss GEICO team has raised tens of thousands of dollars to provide assistance for those who defend our freedom.

On top of all this Miss GEICO participates in 20 National Boat Shows, 3 National Air Shows competing against the GEICO Skytypers, 4 National Poker Runs in the GEICO Caveman boat, and a variety of other charitable events throughout the year. I asked Colton what it takes to pull this all together. He simply said, "Teamwork!"



WHERE TO SEE MISS GEICO

2nd Annual SBI Pensacola Grand Prix
AUG 21-23
Pensacola

7th Annual Clearwater SBI Championship
SEPT 25-27
Clearwater

35th Annual Key West World Championship
NOV 9-15
Key West

OPA World Championship
NOV 20-22
Port Charlotte



WICKED DOLPHIN SILVER

RUM BY CLINT AND TERRY BORAM

We love when people suggest a rum for us to try; even better when they bring us a bottle of rum to try. Our friends had recently toured the Wicked Dolphin Distillery in Cape Coral, Florida. Knowing we enjoy a good rum drink now and then (wink, wink), they brought us a bottle of Wicked Dolphin Silver to test.

The family-run distillery started in 2012, using 100% pure Florida cane sugar harvested just 30 minutes from the distillery, along with other local ingredients. Handcrafted in small batches in a copper pot still, Silver is then barrel aged in Kentucky Bourbon barrels. Wicked Dolphin Silver has won many awards around the world including the 2013 Rum XP Gold Award at the Miami Rum Festival.

Though Wicked Dolphin Silver is clearly a mixing rum, we began our test neat to define the true character of the rum. From there we picked the cocktail in which we thought the rum would shine. It was clear we were on opposite ends of the spectrum.

HE SAID: For a silver rum this has a sweet nose but that is where the sweetness ends. The rum doesn't have a lot of character to discover. I'm not saying it was bad but definitely a mixer not a sipper.

I choose the Cuba Libre hoping the lack of sweetness in the rum would balance out the sweetness of the Coke. The Wicked Dolphin actually let the lime in the cocktail shine creating a unique taste that I quite enjoyed.

SHE SAID: Wow, what a sweet nose. It reminds me of Butter Rum Lifesavers. I disagree with Clint about the sweetness. While I quickly lost the butter rum on the tongue, for me the taste is pure cane sugar. A big however, when I let the rum linger on the tongue it turned bitter and burned my sinuses.

The cocktail I picked was a Mojito, believing the buttery rum would balance out the lime and mint. Boy was I wrong. Sip after sip I kept asking Clint what he forgot to put in the drink. I was left extremely unsatisfied with the Mojito and almost dumped it down the drain. That would have been alcohol abuse. I followed with a Mojito made with Caribbean rum. Ahhhh.



OVERALL: For the first time in quite a while we definitely did not agree on much about a rum. What we did appreciate was the use of locally sourced cane sugar. Although the Silver didn't suit our taste buds it might be worth trying their Spiced, Coconut and RumShine in the future. Who's buying? 🍹

2.5 OUT OF 5

SIPPING RUM SCALE

- 1 – An expensive mixer
- 2 – A quick celebratory shot
- 3 – Wouldn't be embarrassed to share with friends
- 4 – Are my friends worthy of a sip
- 5 – Special moments rum

ABOUT CLINT AND TERRY: *We have sampled many a dram over our 32 years of marriage and quite often we don't fully agree. Could be the difference is male/female taste buds. Or, somebody is just wrong.*